

NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Using Fire to Reduce Hazardous Fuels

(Wickenburg, Arizona) Firefighters with the Bureau of Land Management plan to burn vegetation in the Weaver Mountains, northeast of Wickenburg, Ariz. The burn could take place as early as Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006, weather conditions permitting. The objectives of the burn are to minimize wildfire risk and improve range conditions by reducing the amount of dense stands of chaparral vegetation.

Activities will take place in areas at 4,000 to 5,000 foot elevations that are experiencing higher levels of soil moisture from last spring and summer rains. Vegetation to be burned consists of grass, shrub, and brush. Left untreated this vegetation poses a potential fire hazard to the area.

The prescribed burn of these hazardous fuels is expected to take place from the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Once started, burn activities will be conducted over two sequential days. The prescribed burn area will be closed to the public immediately prior to and during burn activities.

Firefighters will base operations from the Bureau of Land Management's Weaver Mountain Fire Center off of Highway 89. Smoke may be visible from the highway and the Wickenburg area, but should not be a safety hazard to any of the nearby communities or roadways. In addition, there may be some residual smoke may be visible after burning hours from the larger vegetation. As a precaution, firefighters will continue to patrol the area after the burn treatment is completed.

If you have any questions regarding this activity please call the Phoenix District at 623.580.5500. To learn more about reducing hazardous fuels and what you can do to create defensible space around your home, visit the web site at www.firewise.org

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